# WHIRRAKEE

July 2007 Vol. 28 No. 6

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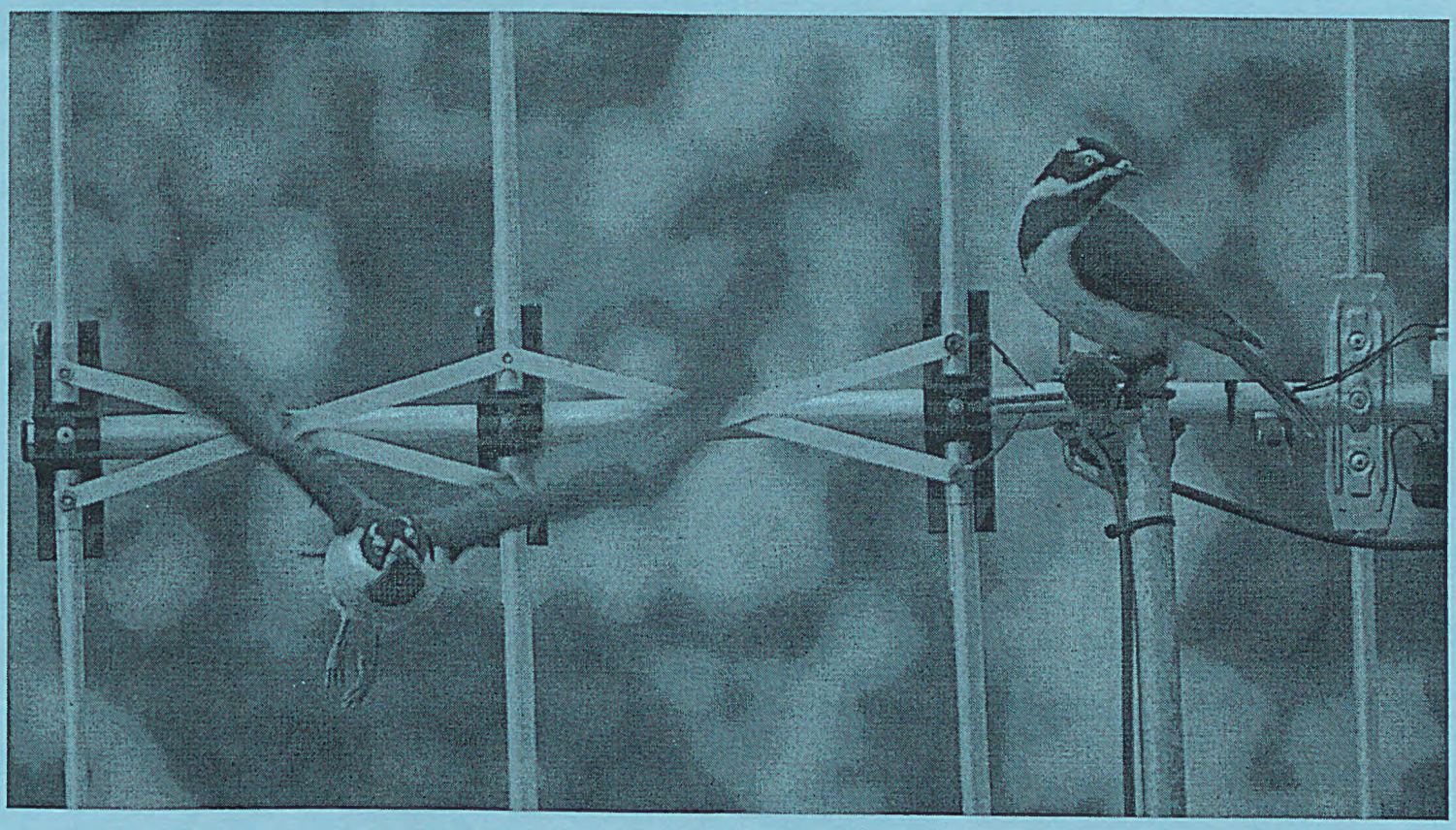

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

**Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.**
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

**Office Bearers for 2006 - 2007**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| President | Glenise Moors | Mandurang South Road, Sedgwick | 54396254 |
| Senior Vice President | Richard Goonan | | 0423418815 |
| Junior Vice President | Anne Bridley | | 5449 3479. |
| Secretary | Anne Bridley | | 5449 3479. |
| Minute Secretary | Peter Ellis | | |
| Treasurer | Stuart Fraser | 12 Bambara Close, Bendigo | |
| Membership Officer | Kate Lottkowitz | 80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye | 5439 3157 |
| Excursion organiser | Richard Goonan | | 0423418815 |
| Syllabus organiser | Rod Orr | 2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo | 5443 5668 |
| | (an assistant's position for the syllabus organiser is still vacant) | | |
| Librarian | Diana Collier | 31 Milroy Street, Bendigo | 5443 0137 |
| Garden Convenor/Secretary | Matthew Comer | 46 Railway Place, Goornong | 5432 2380 |
| Hall Management | Maurie Lewis and Darren White | | 0407 427179 |
| *Whirrakee* contact | Sabine Wilkens | 82 Somerville Street, Bendigo | 5443 2797 |
| | | e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au | |

**Membership** of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

**General meetings** are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

**Committee meetings** are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Matthew Comer, Bill Holsworth, Darren White, Bob Ruddick, Rod Orr, Jan Orr, Peter Ellis, Ben Goonan, Richard Goonan, Anthony Sheean, Liz Graham

**Excursions** are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

**Fauna Study Group**: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.
**Chairman**: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
**Secretary**: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
**Equipment Officer**: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

**Bird Observers Group**: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

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Front cover photo?...see page 2.

# WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 28, No. 6, July 2007

*Whirrakee* takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

*Editor's Note: In this issue you would have received a nomination form for the upcoming Annual General Meeting in September. Please give some serious thought to joining the club in some slightly active role. We can fit a job to suit your interest and availability. If you are unsure where to start, why not join the folding team ? (see page 3)*

**Front Page Illustration** – Photographer: Robert Fisher

Wildlife in the suburbs…It is a real privilege, when Blue-faced Honeyeaters come to your house. These ones were photographed in May at Strathfieldsaye.

## Excursions and Short Notices

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**Some upcoming Excursions (including some changes):**

**Saturday July 14th – Mt Alexander**
Meeting at 9.00am on the summit of Mt Alexander, returning at 3.00pm approximately.

Visit one of the few populations of the nationally threatened *Balantinia antipoda* that occur on Mt Alexander, which is the last refuge for this critically endangered species. The main emphasis of the day will be to ring-bark Pine trees and saplings that have spread throughout the park. Mature pines occur across the whole park and are producing more and more seedlings every year. This excursion will involve some walking off track, some navigation, and for those doing the ring barking – some physical exertion. Remember there is no requirement to take part in the physical aspects and anyone is welcome to come along and enjoy being out in the bush, while others do some practical work. You may be able to assist by carrying the first-aid kit and mobile phone for example. If you intend to participate in the practical aspects please bring (if you can) axe, gloves, goggles and sturdy boots. Some equipment may be available eg. helmets.

**Regent Honeyeater Project**
**Community Planting Program,**
**Weekend 11 - 12 August**
Accommodation for Friday and Saturday night at Benalla Scout and Guide Halls, Lowry Place (mattresses are provided) – or you can put up a tent behind the hall.
Planting all day Saturday and until lunchtime on Sunday.
For the full program, what to bring and whom to contact, see page 4 of this edition.

**Saturday 18th August** (formerly August 11th) **– Local Vegetation Survey**
Come and participate in vegetation surveys of the local forest in areas affected by fire, or which are proposed to be burned over the next two years as part of the current forest management practices. Assist the development of vital basic ecological trend data, which will be of immense value in years to come. A great opportunity to gain practical skills. Any volunteers who would be willing to assist in the organization of the day please contact Richard.

Ring Richard Goonan on 0423418815 or e-mail him on richardgoonan@optusnet.com.au for further details.

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**Launch of 'Indigenous Plants of Bendigo'**
The City of Greater Bendigo, together with the Native Plant Group, are launching this new publication on Wednesday, August 1 at 10am in the BFNC clubrooms.
If you would like to attend, please RSVP by 23rd July to Anthony Sheean, City of Greater Bendigo, ph. 54346374.

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**The *Whirrakee* folding team needs your help**
Wile Rod and Jan are away (June to August inclusive), the *Whirrakee* folding team is considerable smaller. If anybody wants to help with this job (1st Wednesday of the month at 4.30am for about 1hr in the clubroom), please let Sabine Wilkens know (ph 54432797).

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**Box-Ironbark Ecology Course**
Nagambie 29 Oct - Friday 2 Nov 2007
cost: $1200 includes accommodation, meals
applications close 28 Sep
contact: Kate Stothers 5761 1572
kate.stothers@dpi.vic.gov.au

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**Bus trip to Cranbourne Native Botanic Gardens**
**Sunday 21st October**
The Bendigo Native Plant Group are organising a bus on this day to the beautiful new native Botanic Garden at Cranbourne.
The cost will be $ 25.- for the bus. More details later. Please contact Ian O'Halloran if you are interested in attending (ph 54742587).

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**Regent Honeyeater Project – Community Planting Program, Weekend 11 - 12 August**

Organised by John Lindner

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**Friday 10 August**

To Benalla (150 km) via Colbinabbin, Rushworth, Murchison, Violet Town.

Accommodation at Benalla Scout and Guide Halls, Lowry Place – you can put up a tent behind the hall or sleep inside with other people on mattresses, which are provided and placed on the floor.

You can go to Benalla on Saturday morning if necessary but this may leave you a bit tired.

**Saturday 11 August**

9.00 Meet at Benalla Post Office, corner Mair Street and the Midland Highway, just near the bridge over the lake

Or

9.15 Meet at Old Winton Roadhouse, about 10 km from Benalla, via the main road through town, over the freeway and on a little further.

9.30 Travel in convoy to the planting site.

10.00 Start planting approx.
Hot drinks supplied for morning and afternoon tea. BYO lunch.

5.00 Generally stop work or soon after.
Proceed to Benalla Aquatic Centre for hot showers – Mair Street, just down from the Post office and by the lake.

7.00 3 course meal provided at Benalla Secondary College. BYO drinks.

**Sunday 12 August**

9.00 Meet at the planting site (you need to remember the way back).
Hot drinks supplied for morning tea.

Generally work stops at lunchtime.
Barbeque lunch supplied.
Return to Bendigo.

Other activities that may be possible

- Inspection of older planting sites to see the wonderful progress of former years.
- Bush dancing on Saturday night.
- Spotlighting on Saturday night.

**Registration and further details**

Please register with John Lindner by Tuesday 31 July.

Phone: 54488056 (please leave message if nobody at home)

Note: numbers must be provided for catering for Saturday night's dinner.

You will be provided with a map of Benalla showing the locations of the Post Office, Aquatic Centre, Secondary College, Scout and Guide Halls and the way out to the Old Winton Roadhouse.

**Bendigo Groups**

There are 3 groups from Bendigo, which have been invited to participate in this activity:

- Bendigo Field Naturalists Club
- Bendigo Bushwalkers
- Bendigo Outdoor Club

**What to bring**

- For your person – sunscreen, sunhat, beanie, raincoat, warm clothes, boots or strong shoes for rough and possibly wet ground, long trousers.
- For planting – gloves, hand trowel is useful, your own spade if you like, foam kneeling mat can help your knees.
- Food – 2 breakfasts, Saturday lunch, snacks for morning and afternoon teas, your own cup for hot drinks, your own plate for Sunday bbq lunch
- For sleeping at Scout and Guide Hall – sleeping bag, pillow.

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**White-breasted Woodswallows**

by Glenise Moors

On April 21, 2007, I was in Lockington and the drought hadn't broken yet. The weather was cool and there were a few spits of rain. I noticed a Magpie-lark harassing a bird on the power line near the channel. It was a White-breasted Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus)* and another joined it later on. Their white rumps were very noticeable as they 'squiggled' on their perch. This species is usually a dry land bird found further north. A couple of hours later a millimetre of rain fell.

**Spring in the Bendigo Bush workshop**

A workshop is being organised as part of this program focussing on attracting wildlife to your garden as well as protecting and enhancing native vegetation.

If anybody feels they might like to contribute to the running of this, please contact a committee member or Jane Cleary on 54484396.

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**'Thing of the Night' – *Prostanthera* and two local *Westringia* species**

by Sabine Wilkens

Images are from:
http://www.anbg.gov.au/images/photo_cd/lamiaceae/

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*Westringia* and *Prostanthera* are genera in the large family Lamiaceae. Some familiar herbs are part of the family, like lavender, rosemary, thyme and mint but also some familiar weeds, like horehound.

Matthew Comer who presented the 'thing' stuck closely to Glenise's original idea about this segment, in that he compared closely related, locally occurring taxa.

Indigenous members of the Lamiaceae most commonly encountered around Bendigo are the species of *Prostanthera* (mint bush) and *Westringia*.

How can we tell the two genera apart?

*Westringia* commonly has a tubular calyx (collection of sepals) with teeth, as well as leaves in whorls of three around the stem, while *Prostanthera* also has a tubular calyx but it has two lobes instead of teeth (an upper and a lower lobe), and the leaves are usually opposite on the stem. The lobed calyx of the mint bush can be seen quite clearly in the image on the top right of this page, but the leaves are a bit harder to discern there.

***Prostanthera aspalathoides*** Photographer: Fagg, M. (ANBG Photo No.: a.20822)

The genus *Westringia* is endemic to Australia and we have two local species around Bendigo, *Westringia eremicola,* Slender Westringia, and *W. crassifolia,* Whipstick Westringia.

*W. eremicola* has narrow, linear leaves which have a pointed tip and recurved margins. The corolla (collection of petals) is 6.5-8.5mm long. It grows in the Wellsford forest and several other locations in Victoria.

*W. crassifolia*, has narrow, slightly wider, more elliptical leaves (compared to *W. eremicola*) and the leaf margins are not recurved. Its flower is also bigger with the corolla measuring 12-14mm in length. This species has a very restricted distribution. It occurs in the Whipstick Park and another population can be found in the Little Desert. It is classed as endangered. Matthew got his torch out and pointed to where it grows in the Bendigo Field Naturalist garden!

Matthew then handed around the two *Westringia* species as well as *Prostanthera denticulata* for comparison. All of these plants are available at the Goldfield's nursery, if anybody wants to try growing them!

In thanking Matthew for his talk, Glenise encouraged others who might be willing to do such a 'thing of the night' talk, to come forward with a topic of their choice.

*Westringia crassifolia* Photographer: Fagg, M. (ANBG Photo No.: a.9876)

*Westringia eremicola* Photographer: Fagg, M (ANBG Photo No.: a.21155)

**Gathering knowledge on ecological effects of burning…**

The North Central CMA, in its Regional Catchment Strategy, as well as Native Vegetation Plan has identified the need to "Develop and implement appropriate fire management regimes to sustain ecological processes in key private land native vegetation remnants by 2008" (MAT BD13).

The subject of ecological burning is extremely complex and poorly understood. Nevertheless, fire is one of a number of disturbances that could be used to trigger a response in some vegetation communities. Subsequently, land managers are keen to explore the use of fire to manage and enhance species diversity or abundance, or improve aspects in quality of an Ecological Vegetation Class.

In order to progress with the implementation of ecological burning on private land within the North Central region, the North Central CMA has commissioned Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) to conduct a review relating to the fire ecology of Box-Ironbark ecosystems and identify the gaps in knowledge.

The review will include an analysis of information gathered and the identification of gaps in knowledge. The report will propose the next steps for the North Central CMA and its key partners to take in order to increase our knowledge of ecological burning, particularly as it relates to private land.

If you would like to contribute any information pertaining to Ecological burning within the Goldfields Bioregion, then please go to the link below and address the questions

in the project brief which is contained in the North Central Best Management Practice website at http://dev.nccma.vic.gov.au/bmp/html/ecolfire.aspx

Comments should be forwarded to me no later than 11th July 2007.

Adrian Martins
Biodiversity Projects Coordinator
North Central Catchment Management Authority PO Box 18 Huntly Victoria 3551
t: (03) 5440 1851
f: (03) 5448 7148
m: 0427 099 376

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**June General Meeting: 'Pollination of threatened, sexually deceptive *Caladenia* species in SW Victoria'**

**Speaker: Andrew Pritchard**

by Sabine Wilkens

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Andrew Pritchard came all the way from Warnambool for this presentation, where he works with DSE as a Flora and Fauna officer as the state wide coordinator of the Victorian orchid recovery program.

There are about 350-380 orchid species in Victoria and over half of them are threatened in some way. Their populations range from 1-2 plants only, to a few scattered populations. About half these threatened orchids have recovery plans drawn up. These plans really got going in earnest about five years ago, when Colin Bower became involved as botanical consultant with his extensive experience in pollination of spider orchids.

Forty to fifty species of *Caladenia* are pollinated by male thynnid wasps. These species are characteristically dull-coloured (to our eyes anyway) and release a pheromone that mimics that of the female thynnids. This chemical attracts the sex-starved males – usually in a very species-specific way. Many orchid species also use visual stimuli to attract their pollinators, by not only smelling like a female wasp, but also by looking like one (examples are the bird orchid, elbow orchid and the duck orchid). Due to the high specificity of the relationship, it is believed that sometimes a rarity of the pollinator contributes to the rarity of the orchid species.

Ordinarily, the female thynnid wasp emerges from the ground and releases a pheromone to attract males. After locating her, the male then flies away with her (she has no wings) and takes her to a nearby flowering shrub or tree. There (or already in flight) he mates with her and she feeds on the flowers. She then ends up back on the ground and will parasitise a beetle larvae for her young to feed on, while they grow up.

If the orchid releases the pheromone within the home rage of the male wasp, and if he is fooled, he may remember the position of this bogus female for a day – but the next day he will have forgotten. For the orchid to be successful, the male, has in fact got to be fooled twice – once to pick up the pollinia from the first orchid, and then again, to deposit the pollen load on the stigma of another. If the orchid is rare and the pollinator is too, this is a chancy proposition.

The project Andrew reported on involves the collection and identification of the pollinators of some of the threatened *Caladenia* species in Victoria. Some orchid taxonomists want to split up some species into several new ones, but do the wasps know this? For example, *C. reticulata* has now been split into three species, yet they are all pollinated by the same species of wasp.

To find out where the pollinators are, the team travels all over the country. If a location is found where the wasps live (e.g. the Little Desert was one such place), orchids brought up from the Otways are actually pollinated there! The way to find out, if the right wasp

species live somewhere, is to take the orchid in flower to that area and position it so that the wind takes the pheromone away, hopefully right under the noses of the wasps. Why would a wasp that pollinates an Otway caladenia occur in the Little Desert? The answer is that the wasp does not need the orchid, but the orchid needs the wasp.

After the fires in the Grampians, some orchid species have come up in profusion, that were previously believed to be rare or even locally extinct. Looking for these in the first year after a fire is critical, as after this, the ground cover will get too thick for small orchids to emerge through. A new population of Grampians Duck Orchid was found after the fires, consisting of 200-300 plants. But what is the pollinator? This question is on Andrew's 'to do' list for this year.

There are many other questions...like how important is the timing of the orchids' and/or the wasps' emergence and what effect does any upcoming climate change have on this already very chancy relationship? Orchids usually flower at very predictable times ...except last year. So, perhaps things are changing. We also virtually know nothing about the emergence times of the wasps, and if given the choice between sexy orchids and female wasps, which way the male wasp would turn. However, on one occasion a male was actually observed dropping a female in favour of an orchid!

Orchids like these, not only rely on wasps to complete their life cycle, they also depend on specialised soil fungi (called mycorrhizal fungi) that help them obtain enough nutrients to grow. Once again, the fungus often does not need the orchid, but the orchid needs the fungus. Because of this multitude of dependencies that orchids are part of, they are believed to be key indicators of the state of health of the environment.
The orchid recovery program 'Back from the Brink' has earned Andrew Pritchard and his team the prestigious Banksia Award. The many questions that arose afterwards, showed that everybody was enthralled by the topic!

## Biodiversity at the Crossroads

The forum Biodiversity at the Crossroads will be held on Monday, July 2 at the 60L Green Building, 60 Leicester St, Carlton from 6:00 to 7:30pm.

'Victoria Naturally' and its alliance partner The Wilderness Society are holding an important forum to help rethink the way we manage our natural systems.

Biodiversity at the Crossroads will feature international guest speaker Emeritus Professor Michael Soulé, the "father of conservation biology" and co-chair of The Wilderness Society's WildCountry Science Council, as well as leading Victorian landscape ecologist Associate Professor Andrew Bennett from Deakin University.

The forum comes at a time when the world is facing global mass extinctions and amid moves by the Victorian Government to develop a new framework for managing biodiversity through its Land and Biodiversity White Paper inquiry.

By better understanding the connections and processes that underpin nature, and by protecting, restoring and reconnecting vast tracts of land, we can reduce the threats of climate change and ensure our wildlife can move and adapt to changing conditions.

RSVP by emailing Victoria Naturally at info@vnpa.org.au or phone us on (03) 9341 6508. Places are limited so please book early. Refreshments will be provided. If you'd like to help promote this free event you can download a poster from the Victorian National Parks Association website. Just go to www.vnpa.org.au and click on the Victoria Naturally link and then the Biodiversity at the Crossroads link or simply go here: http://www.vnpa.org.au/level3.php?page_ID=9&page_level2_ID=9&3rd_level_page_ID=190

From the Mailbag
Author: Elaine Mathison

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Each month the club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for Whirrakee. These are available from the club library.

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**THE VICTORIAN NATURALIST**(FNCV)
April 2007

This edition contains many reports from the 2006 Biodiversity Symposium which focused on invasive species.

- Of weeds and other introduced species: Ferdinand Mueller and plant and animal acclimatisation in colonial Victoria
- Invasive plant pathogenic fungi in native Victorian ecosystems
- Invasive terrestrial invertebrates in Victoria: both exotic and native
- Challenges in managing miners: the Noisy Miner, the Bell Miner and the Yellow-throated Miner have been linked to declines in bird diversity and abundance
- Battling Bridal Creeper in coastal dunes - a community approach on the Bellarine Peninsula
- The potential impact of the Large Earth Bumblebee on the Australian mainland: lessons from Tasmania
- Hybridisation and invertebrate hosts - two neglected aspects of pest plants in south-eastern Australia:

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**PARKWATCH**(VNPA)
June 2007

This special edition deals with park management in the face of climate change.

- Managing our parks for resilience against climate change
- All dressed up and nowhere to go: with special reference to alpine species
- Altered states: rethinking the landscape by linking fragmented reserves
- The greatest secret of all! our lack of knowledge about plant and animal species
- Parks, fire and science: the weakest link?

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**THE BIRD OBSERVER**(BOCA)
June 2007

*Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre*, recently opened, is at Ongerup in southern Western Australia. It is staffed by local volunteers and provides information and activities concerning this unique species. A captive breeding program is planned.

*Precious Places: Our Remnant Woodlands* reports on Pinkerton Forest and Bush's Paddock near Melton. Over one hundred bird species have been recorded so far.

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**Also received recently:**

*Geelong Naturalist (Geelong FNC)
June 2007
*The Ballarat Naturalist(Ballarat FNC)
June 2007
*Castlemaine Naturalist (C'Maine FNC)
June 2007
*Field Nats News(FNCV)
June 2007

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## Speaker Syllabus for the remainder of BFNC General Meetings in 2007

**The General Meetings begin at 7.30pm, usually with the segment 'Thing of the Night' followed by the announced speaker at 8pm.**

| Date, Speaker and Topic | Some information about the speaker... |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, July 11<br>David Major: 'The importance of the Greater Bendigo National Park' | David is the Ranger in Charge of the Parks of this region. He works from the Epsom offices of Parks Victoria. |
| Wednesday August 8<br>Paul Foley: 'Interactions between the terrestrial and extraterrestrial environments' | Paul is an astronomer who lives locally. His regular articles on aspects of astronomy, 'Beyond Earth', are published in the Bendigo Miner (formerly CV Week). |
| Wednesday September 12<br>Glenise Moors: As President of the BFNC, Glenise may exercise her right to speak on any topic - all will become clear at the AGM when our President speaks! | |
| Wednesday October 10<br>Darren Perry: 'Indigenous settlement and culture in the North-central region of Victoria' | Darren operates his own business as an Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Natural Resource Management Consultant and is based in Swan Hill |
| Wednesday November 14<br>Simon Bonwick: 'State Prohibited Weeds - the Weed Spotter Program' | Simon is the Weed Alert Contact Officer at Seymour - he is a member of Victoria's Weed Alert Rapid Response Team. |
| Wednesday December 12<br>Rob Watkins: Bendigo Field Naturalists Club's history - an audio-visual presentation. | |

## Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

### General Meetings

**Wednesday July 11** **7.30pm**
David Major: 'The importance of the Greater Bendigo National Park'. David is the Ranger in Charge of the Parks of this region. He works from the Epsom offices of Parks Victoria.
...and Stuart Fraser will deliver the 'Thing of the Night' by discussing the flowering times of two local eucalypts, the Red Ironbark and the Grey Box.

**Wednesday, August 8** **7.30pm**
Paul Foley: 'Interactions between the terrestrial and extraterrestrial environments'. Paul is an astronomer who lives locally. His regular articles on aspects of astronomy, 'Beyond Earth', are published in the Bendigo Miner.

### Excursions

Please see page 3 for the latest update.
The next excursion is on **July 14** (to Mt Alexander) to do some looking as well as some practical work.

Contact Richard Goonan if you plan to attend or have any questions (ph 0423418815).

For the Regent Honeyeater project weekend planting, **August 11-12**, please see page 4.

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### Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

**Wednesday, July 25** **7.30pm**
Topic of the night to be advised.

### Fauna Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

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### Bus trip to Cranbourne Native Botanic Gardens

**Sunday 21st October**
The Bendigo Native Plant Group are organising a bus on this day to the new beautiful new native Botanic Garden at Cranbourne.
The cost will be $ 25.- for the bus. More details later. Please contact Ian O'Halloran if you are interested in attending (ph 54742587).

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### Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

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### South-East Australian Naturalists Association (SEANA) Spring Camp

Friday 5th - Sunday 7th October 2007
hosted by Peninsula Field Naturalists Club
at 'The Briars' Park, Nepean Hwy, Mt Martha
Deposit of $30 now due, balance by 31 August.
Anne Bridley (54493479) has further details.

### Advance Notice:
### Australian Naturalists Network (ANN) Get-together

10-18 May 2008
Mary River Park, Northern Territory
Expression of interest & deposit of $200 to NTFNC by 1/10/07. Accommodation at Mary River Park to be booked directly by end of October 07. Anne Bridley has further details.

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